Cl Cont. Sub B1 Cancel'd.

periphery of the energy-confining region and the distance between the topmost vibration electrode and the bottommost vibration electrode satisfy the ratio $nL/t<10$, wherein n is Greater than 1.

Sub B2

Amended 3. A piezoelectric element comprising:

a plurality of piezoelectric layers comprising a piezoelectric material which is a bismuth-based ceramic comprising Ca, Bi, Ti, and O;

at least three vibration electrodes opposing each other, each disposed among the piezoelectric layers; and

AD

an energy-confining region formed in a region in which the vibration electrodes overlap and exciting an n-th order longitudinal thickness vibration;

wherein the maximum length L of a secant between two intersections on the periphery of the energy-confining region and the distance between the topmost vibration electrode and the bottommost vibration electrode satisfy the ratio $nL/t < 9$, wherein n is an Integer greater than 1.

Amended 5. A piezoelectric element comprising:

a plurality of piezoelectric layers comprising a piezoelectric material which is a bismuth-based ceramic comprising Sr, Bi, Nb, and O;

at least three vibration electrodes opposing each other, each disposed among the piezoelectric layers; and

AM

an energy-confining region formed in a region in which the vibration electrodes overlap and exciting an n-th order longitudinal thickness vibration;

wherein the maximum length L of a secant between two intersections on the periphery of the energy-confining region and the distance t between the topmost vibration electrode and the bottommost vibration electrode satisfy the ratio $nL/t < 10$,

wherein n is an integer greater than 1.